

customs, like all other customs, spread by imitation : unwarlike communities would tend to copy the manners of their more forceful conquerors or neighbours. Man's authority advanced; woman's declined, and we can trace the progress of this revolution during the period of recorded history. Succession through males is now almost universal amongst races who have any pretension to be civilized. But in legends and fairy tales how often does it not come down to us that anciently a young man might win a kingdom by attracting the affections of a king's daughter!

But, it may be urged, if the patriarchal system arose out of woman's slavery, how comes it that woman has been so highly esteemed amongst some races which have accentuated strongly the authority of her husband ? She might be honoured or dishonoured under the mastership of man. In Asia the patriarchate has commonly been polygamous. In Northern Europe, under the impulse of peculiar instincts, the subjection of the wife had the effect of identifying her interests with those of her husband: servitude grew into partnership, and the chastity which she contributed to the common stock was regarded as her most cherished possession. It might be preserved in the face of whatever temptation, and did not need to be safeguarded by the bars of the harem.

We may, then, conclude that the family, which

appears to be the most natural
element in the
constitution of society, is in reality an
artificial
creation—the composite result of
various im-
pulses. Sexual attraction is its
foundation. but
this is transitory, and can fortunately be
replaced
by feelings which spring from our
impulses of
sociability, habit, and kindness.
Selfishness